

## Painting comes home



Nick Adams / The Spectrum

Lydia Boyden holds a painting created by her mother more than 75 years ago. The artwork was painted on a piece of metal from a car door.

# Daughter recovers mother's painting

■ View of Mount Trumbull created on unusual surface

By BOB HUDSON

bob.hudson@spectrum.com

WASHINGTON — Approximately 80 years ago, Lydia Boyden helped her mother, Gladys Young, gather materials to paint a picture for a friend, Doretta Iverson Bundy.

Their families lived in Bundyville, near Mount Trumbull on the Arizona Strip. Boyden's husband was one of the foremen at the sawmills there.

As Lydia recalled, there was no canvas on which to paint the picture. And the second choice, an old pair of denim coveralls, was also unavailable.

So, Gladys painted her picture on a piece of steel cut from the door of a Ford automobile.

"It was probably a good new Ford that got wrecked," Lydia said Monday

"I could remember that picture. I always told Mother, 'I want that picture.'"

— LYDIA YOUNG

who recovered her mother's painting

as she sat in the living room of her home with her husband, Doren. "It couldn't have been too old. They hadn't been making them long."

According to Lydia, Gladys painted the picture about 1921.

She then gave the painting to her friend, Retty Bundy.

Over the years, Barbara Carroll of St. George saw the painting repeatedly. She is Bundy's daughter.

"I could remember that picture," she

said Tuesday. "I always told Mother, 'I want that picture.'"

When her mother died, she took the picture to her home. Now 83, Carroll said she couldn't recall how long she has had it.

After Boyden's mother, who had no formal training in art, painted that picture, she returned to Hurricane, where she spent most of her life.

"People loved her pictures all over Hurricane and wherever she went," Lydia said.

After she married Leland Stout, Lydia moved to Provo. There her husband had a successful lumber business. She began a business making rock tables with designs imbedded in the stone.

Over the years, Lydia and other members of the Young family collected several of Gladys Young's pictures.

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But Lydia wanted that one of Mount Trumbull on the car door. Since 1980 or so, each time Lydia came to St. George, she contacted Carroll, trying to buy it. Each time Carroll's answer was maybe sometime, but not now. It was, after all, a family heirloom that was special to her, too.

As time passed, Lydia lost Carroll's address and telephone num-

ber. She eventually found it again.

"A month ago, I called to ask her again if I could buy the picture," Lydia recalled. "She said she had decided to give it to me if I asked again."

"I had given up. I was so shocked when she said, 'I've decided to give it to you.'"

So, she and Doren jumped into their car and headed to St. George. Trouble was, they had written down the address incorrectly. As a result, they couldn't find Carroll's house.

Doren was ready to give up and go home. But Lydia felt compelled to turn down another street and had Doren stop in front of a specific house. She knocked on the door and met one of Carroll's closest friends, who called Carroll.

"Are you looking for me?" Carroll asked when they finally met.

"Barbara was a sweet, gracious person," Lydia said. "We were friends at once."

Carroll laughed as she recalled the meeting and her decision to let Lydia have the picture. "She

remembered that 'sometime,'" she said of Lydia's persistence.

Now Lydia is trying to determine the best way to display her heirloom. Eventually, she said, it probably will occupy a place of prominence in the home of her daughter, Valora Crandall, in Mapleton.

"She doesn't know I've got it," Lydia said. "She's going to be so thrilled. She's really going to be crazy about Grandma's picture."

In the meantime, Lydia is enjoying the memories that picture, painted so long ago, evokes.